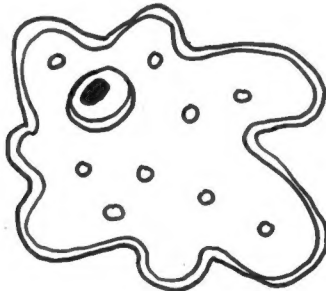


Asexuality is more complicated than I thought!



Asexual: a person who does not experience
SEXUAL ATTRACTION



about the zinemaker

Hullo!
My name is
Maisha.

In the spirit of responsible sociological methodology, I believe transparency about my subject position is very important. I am by no means an authority on asexuality, nor should this zine be viewed as the final word on or ultimate guide to asexuality. I definitely didn't cover everything about asexuality in 10 pages, and I may have even goofed some stuff up. I'm human and my work is colored (though it be in black and white) by my perspective and experiences.

• age: 23
at the time of this writing:
I am not a vampire and I do age.

• location: Portland, OR
• assorted identity tags:
asexual, queer, cisgender, white, able-bodied, femme-ish, female

GRAB BAG: social justice, tea, dinosaurs, kids, crafts, webcomics, chocolate, bicycling, singing along very badly, vegetarian cooking, gardening, communing with tomatoes

OTHER WORKS of the ILLUSTRATED SORT
-Sex Talk: a comic about communication, consent, & gettin' it on online at tingurl.com/sextalkcomic
-Lifelines (an autobio webcomic that updates at random) tingurl.com/maishacomix

this zine was produced in 2012. Alter, excerpt, copy, & distribute at will!



Asexual: a person who does NOT experience sexual attraction

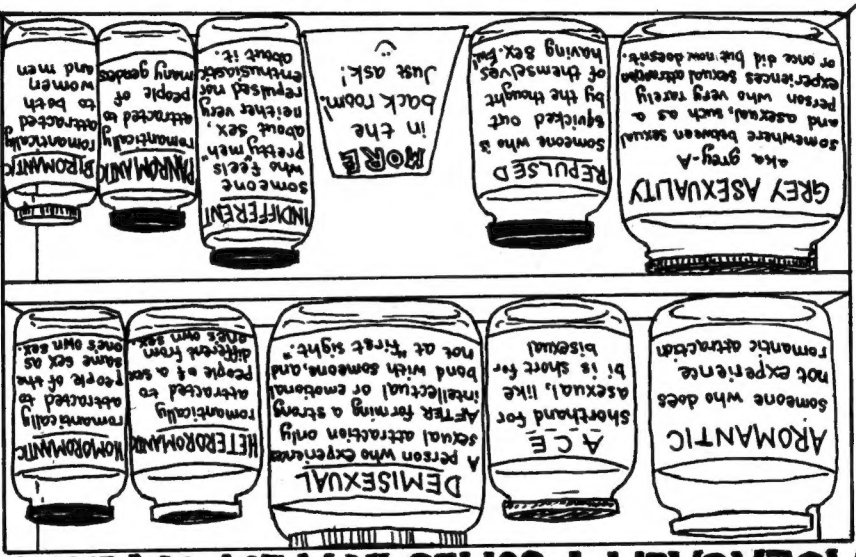
a spectrum & an umbrella
a community
about 1% of people identify with in the asexuality community

considered a sexual orientation (or lack thereof)
totally normal!

!s...

a label

ASEXUALITY COMES IN A LOT OF FLAVORS



RESOURCE LIBRARY

LOVE FROM THE ASEXUAL UNDERGROUND asexualunderground.blogspot.com	SHADES OF GRAY grasexuality.wordpress.com	ASEXY BEAST theonepercentclub.blogspot.com	ASEXUAL FEMINISMS acefeminisms.blogspot.com	ASEXUALITY ARCHIVE asexualityarchive.com	ASEXUALITY STUDIES asexualitystudies.org	ASEXUAL EXPLORATIONS asexualexplorations.net	ASEXUALITIC: asexual dating site asexualitc.com	ACEBOOK: asexual dating site ace-book.net	APOSITIVE a sex-positive asexual forum apositive.org	AVEN: Asexuality Visibility and Education Network asexuality.org
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ONLINE COMMUNITIES

INFORMATION

BLOGS (NON-TUMBLR)

ASEXUAL EXPERIENCES asexual-experiences.tumblr.com	ACE WATCH acewatch.tumblr.com	ASEXUALITY-EXISTS asexuality-exists.tumblr.com	YOU KNOW YOU'RE ASEXUAL WHEN youknowyoureasexual.tumblr.com	ASEXUAL EDUCATION asexual-education.tumblr.com	ASEXUALITY EXISTS asexualityexists.tumblr.com	GRAY-ASEXUALITY gray-asexuality.tumblr.com	DEMISEXUALITY demisexuality.tumblr.com	CAKE YEAH ASEXUALS cakeyeahasexuals.tumblr.com	ASEXUAL AXOLOTL asexualaxolotl.tumblr.com	ASEXUAL ADVICE asexualadvice.tumblr.com	ACE SECRETS acesecrets.tumblr.com
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TUMBLRS

VIRGIN #1 and #2 alchemiststc101set.org/virgin.html	ASEXUAL FEMINISM available from microcom publishing	ASEXY LIFE	(A)SEXUAL: Not everybody's doing it artsengine.net/asexual	THE ASEXUALITY CHRONICLES blip.tv/theasexualitychronicles/	THE DAPPER ACE youtube.com/user/TheDapperAce/	ACESOMNIACS youtube.com/user/ACESOMNIACS/	HOT PIECES OF ACE youtube.com/user/HotPiecesOfAce/
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VLOGS & YOUTUBE

DOCUMENTARY

ZINES

ADD YOUR OWN!





HOW TO BE AN ALLY TO ASEXUALS

1. Listen and believe us!

Everyone is the expert of their own experience.

2. Educate yourself about asexuality.

Lots of resources exist. Use them!

3. Ask before asking.

Not all asexuals want to be your asexuality encyclopedia.

Make sure an asexual is open to questions before asking.

4. Advocate for asexual visibility.

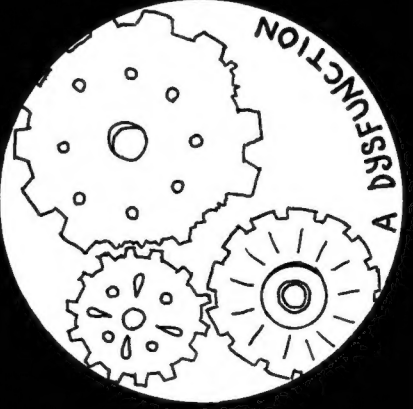
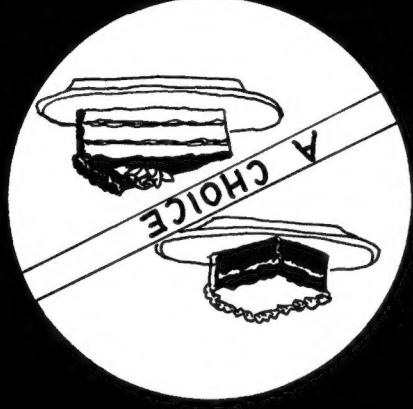
Asexuality gets left out a lot. Include it!

Support projects that make asexuality visible.

5. Move up, move back.

Know when to talk about asexuality and when to listen to asexual voices.

ASEXUALITY IS NOT:



TIPS for SEXUALS DATING ASEXUALS

a guest page authored
by Melissa Sweet

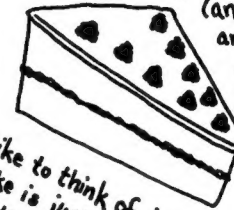
- ~YOUR PARTNER'S ASEXUALITY is not a reflection of a "failure" on your part to "make" them be sexually attracted to you. You also can't "make" them be sexual. But you can...
- ~UNDERSTAND that you might not understand each other's different sexualities but talk about it often, and talk to other people about it when it's appropriate. You both need supportive listeners!
- ~ENCOURAGE your partner to connect with an asexual community.
- ~CONSENT and OPEN COMMUNICATION are key to an awesome relationship - talk about what sex means for both of you, what you feel like you need in order to be with the other person, and most importantly, be HONEST about what you need and be willing to compromise - but know when you can and can't compromise.
- ~JUST BECAUSE YOUR PARTNER isn't sexually attracted to you doesn't mean you're not a SEXY BEAST. Your partner's attraction to you isn't indicative of how the world sees you. Appreciate and recognize ways that your partner feels closest to you, which is likely to be nonsexually.
- ~READ and TALK about asexuality and find good resources to be a great partner and ally.



resources

Cake is used to welcome newcomers to AVEN, the Asexuality Visibility & Education Network

(an online forum and community, asexuality.org)



I like to think of it this way: cake is just as good - and maybe better than - sex!

$53x + m^3 = \phi$
can be read as
sex + me = no result



represents the spectrum of sexual attraction, with black being asexual (at the bottom) and white being sexual, with shades of grey in between.



ASEXUALITY
FLAG



black stripe represents asexuality
grey stripe represents grey asexuality & demisexuality
white stripe represents sexuality
purple stripe represents community



Aces represent asexuality because asexuals often call themselves "aces" for short. Ace of hearts and ace of spades are particularly used.

IS ASEXUALITY PART OF THE LGBTQ COMMUNITY?

Asexuality is often not recognized as real or legitimate, or is framed as a "choice or something that can be "cured" or changed. Notice similarities to lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans*, and queer identities?

Asexuals fall outside of heterosexual and (cis)gender norms.

Asexuals often go through a coming out process that includes questioning ourselves, searching for identities and labels that fit, coming to terms with our identities, seeking a community of people with similar experiences, and telling other people who we are.

Asexuals are very rarely depicted in the media; representations are often stereotyped.

Asexuality is often left out of classrooms, textbooks, and sex education programs. This exclusion can make us feel alone, invisible, broken, confused, like we don't exist, like we don't matter, and like we don't have futures.

Many asexuals do not consider themselves part of the LGBTQ community, but many do. There is no simple yes or no answer and no one, monolithic LGBTQ community.

RESPECT INDIVIDUAL IDENTITIES

Some LGBTQ folks don't think asexuality should be included as LGBTQ. These folks may believe that asexuality: is not an orientation - is the same as slut-shaming - is not oppressed or discriminated against - can "pass" as heterosexuality - betrays the LGBTQ mission to have sex their way.

MYTHS and other ignorant things people say to asexual people

You're probably just repressed.

You just haven't met the right person yet.

You're making that up for attention.

So is it because of your mental disorder?

Don't worry, it's just a phase.*

So you've NEVER had sex EVER?

HAHAHA

So what you're saying is that you're gay, you just don't want to admit it.

But EVERYONE wants sex!

You are just are just too ugly to get a date.

How do you know if you've never tried it?

Not all aces are straight and cisgender! Some of us are queer, homosexual, bisexual, panromantic, trans*, genderqueer...

Although asexuality may be temporary for some asexuals, the term "phase" is often used to discredit very real feelings. Just because something is impermanent does not mean it's not or never was legitimate.